

Atlantic Crossroads

Vol. 11, No. 12 • March 24, 2006 | Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal | In the Fight!

Time change



European Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday at Midnight. Remember to set clocks ahead one hour before going to bed Saturday.

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Lajes location crucial in in-flight emergencies

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Pinewood Derby

Cub Scouts compete in annual event

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Lajes Weather

Saturday

*Mostly Cloudy,
with rainshowers
High 61
Low 57*



Sunday

*Mostly cloudy with
rainshowers
High 59
Low 54*



*Courtesy of the 65th OSS
weather flight*



Singing her way to stardom

Capt. Hollie Losee won first place in the Lajes Idol Quatro/USAFE Idol II Saturday by singing her version of "On a Night Like This" by Trick Pony to a crowd of more than 300. Captain Losee was one of five military members who competed. She will move on to compete at the U.S. Air Forces in Europe competition April 17. See story on page 7. (Photo by Senior Airman Tabitha Larson)



Commanders Line:

Nannies could cost more than you think

Question:

There are many laws here to protect the nannies, but who is here to protect the Americans?

I have come across a problem with my nanny and I can't seem to find the right answer.

I have many reasons to have fired her. I've spoken to Legal and they tell me that I still need to pay her all the money she's owed. Vacation pay, subsidy pay and whatever has accumulated since Jan. 1, regardless, of the reason she was fired.

I went to the Inspeccao Regional do Trabalhos in Angra and they told me that I still had to pay her.

I went to the Social Security office in Praia and found out she hadn't been paying her social security. I was told to come back with her to their office so I can pay the 500+ euros that is overdue.

I called Family Support to find out if there is a list where I can add her name so this doesn't happen to future families.

I now have to pay her 700+ euros for vacation pay, subsidy pay, etc. I also have to pay 500+ euros to Social Security.

This is a LOT of money and even if I have to pay it, so be it. However, the community should stick together and prevent this from happening again. I talked to my nanny's

previous employer and she had the same problems with her. This is now a trend and needs to be stopped. Just like I can go to Family Support to "recommend" a nanny I should be able to "not recommend" a nanny.

Answer:

Unfortunately, your experience is not uncommon. Several months ago, our Legal Office began briefing newcomers on Portuguese law and the requirements that we must meet if we hire local nationals.

The Legal Office offers a handout entitled Portuguese Domestic Help that describes the various entitlements we must meet to hire domestic help. Although wages are negotiable, the basic entitlements are based on Portuguese law and are non-negotiable.

Most importantly, this handout contains a contract that we need to complete with our domestic help. In your situation, you did not have a contract. Your nanny knew the system very well and is using it to maximize her benefits.

As a result of your call, we are looking closely at what we tell newcomers to make sure they understand their options. Shorter contracts, for instance, may expose our people to less risk.

We also advise people to check references and refuse to hire anyone without

references.

In your case, you checked with your nanny's previous employer, however they did not disclose the issues they had with the nanny.

We are not able to offer or maintain an approved "nanny list" due to the liability issues associated with such a list. If we were in the United States, we would not be able to offer such a list either.

Finally, if your domestic help commits a crime, we must report it to the Portuguese Police and the 65th Security Forces Squadron, regardless of the expected outcome.

The bottom line is we must be a smart consumer and investigate the pitfalls of hiring domestic help along with the benefits.

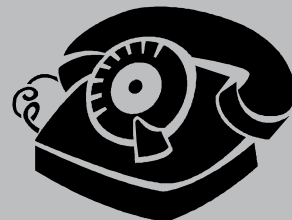
See page 3 for information regarding an upcoming town hall meeting on this topic.

The Commander's Line is your direct link to me for suggestions, kudos and as a way to work problems or issues within the 65th Air Base Wing for which you can't find another solution.

Your chain of command should always be your first option for praise or problems -- but when that's not the answer, call or e-mail the CC Line at 535-4240 or actionline@lajes.af.mil.

-Col. Robert Winston
65th Air Base Wing
commander

Straight Talk Line



The number to the Lajes Field Straight Talk Line is 535-3542 or 295-573-542.

This line is updated during emergencies, Force Protection Condition changes and more.

All personnel are encouraged to keep this number for access to important base information.

For more information on the Straight Talk Line, call 535-2369.



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The Crossroads staff encourages its readers to call, fax or e-mail with ideas or corrections. Call 535-3347 to speak to a Crossroads staff member, fax information to 535-6326, e-mail news@lajes.af.mil.

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Mobex

Staff Sgt. Willis Shivers, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron gathers items for a deployment during a mobility processing line exercise Tuesday. This was phase one of a mobility exercise here.

Master Sgt. Wendell Crittenden, 65th Contracting Squadron loads his mobility bag as Senior Airman Joseph Dickison, an augmentee stands by. (Photos by Guido Melo)



Good to Know

Town hall meeting

A town hall meeting focusing on the issues involved with hiring domestic help is scheduled for 4 p.m. April 3 at the base theater. For more information, call Capt. Melissa Waheibi at 535-6161.

Clinic phone system

The clinic has a new Automated Call Distribution phone system.

To call the clinic, dial 535-3261 on base or 295-57-3261 from off base. Callers will hear a recording directing them to the appropriate area.

Press 1 for all appointments

Press 2 for Dental

Press 3 for Life Skills

Press 4 for the Referral Management Center and Medical Records

Press 5 for all clinics and other services. The Medical Group asks customers to be patient during the transition period.

This new system will provide them with the tools needed to improve access to care.

Personnel Services

Delivery briefing

Beginning March 31, some military personnel flight services will only be available online.

The MPF has scheduled briefings at various times to allow all personnel to learn about the transformation. Personnel Service Delivery Briefings are scheduled 9 a.m. Monday, 7 p.m. Tuesday and 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Education Center (Bldg. T-146) auditorium. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Ken Jack at 535-3612.

Shuttle service

A midday shuttle service runs from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. Its seven stops occur in the following order: T-708 (Fuels/Flight Kitchen), T-612 (passenger terminal/Communications Squadron), T-166 (lodging), T-131 (dorm), T-415 (clinic/dining hall), T-570 (Civil Engineer Squadron), and T-815 (Security Forces Squadron). After the last stop, the bus continues in reverse order. The bus will make four trips. For details, call Vehicle Operations at 535-3151.

Everyday Hero



Staff Sgt. Vanessa King

Rank/Name: Staff Sgt. Vanessa King

Organization: 65th Civil Engineer Squadron

Duty title: Client Server Administrator

Job description (20 words or less): Unit Work Group Administrator, FARM, in charge of sponsorship program, GTC monitor, unit TDY orders

Hometown: Tampa, Fla.

Time in the Air Force: 7 years

Spouse/children: Staff Sgt. Rudy King

What's the best aspect of your job?
Having the opportunity to work in a variety of units.

What are your career goals? To make chief master sergeant and to be happy! Progress fast in career.

Best military experience: Getting a ride in an F-16

Life goal(s): Buy a home and raise healthy happy family

One word to describe you: Determined

Hobbies: dance, crafts, shopping, photography and computer work

Favorite food(s): Italian

Favorite color: Purple

Pet peeve: People not paying attention to detail

No one knows: Anything

When I was growing up, I wanted to be: Marine Biologist

The first thing I would do if I won \$1,000,000 is: Have a big party with all my friends.

Prepare for pandemic with checklist

Individuals and families can protect themselves against a virus that could cause an influenza pandemic. At this time, there is no influenza pandemic, but the constant threat of a change in avian (bird) flu could result in a world-wide pandemic in the future. These basic preventive measures may help you avoid becoming ill from a deadly virus or mitigate the effects of such an illness until an effective vaccine and medications become widely available.

The following fundamental steps may be the most important things you can do if a pandemic occurs:

Alternate family care plans: In the event of an influenza pandemic, travel between Lajes Field and the mainland (United States or Europe) may be severely restricted and usual family care plans may not be able to be implemented. Having an alternate care plan will help your children if parents or guardians become ill.

Alternate pet care plans: Determine who will care for your pet(s) if you become ill. Having a plan ahead of time will help you and your pet.

Prepare for prolonged school closures: Schools may be closed for as long as several weeks to help stop the spread of a pandemic. Have a plan for your children.

Annual flu shot: Receiving this will help prevent you from becoming a "mixing bowl" for usual Influenza A strains and new, emerging Influenza A viruses that may cause a pandemic. A spike of influenza-like illnesses in a group that has been previously vaccinated against usual strains of Influenza A would also alert health officials about a possible pandemic strain. The flu shot is 80% effective against annual Influenza A infections, which kill 36,000 Americans every year.

Pneumococcal vaccine: While an influenza pandemic will be caused by a virus, many people will suffer a secondary, and possibly deadly, bacterial infection by the bacterium *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. These infections cause an estimated 40,000 deaths annually in the United States, accounting for more deaths than any other vaccine-preventable bacte-

rial disease. Approximately half of these deaths potentially could be prevented through the use of vaccine. Children under 2 years and adults 65 years or older, and other people with serious underlying medical problems, should receive the Pneumococcal vaccine.

Hand washing: This simple measure will help prevent the transmission of viruses from hands to your nose, eyes, or mouth. Where soap and water is not available, alcohol-based hand sanitizer is a portable, effective alternative.

Surgical masks: These commercially available masks help prevent the droplet spread of virus to and from mouths and noses and act as a barrier to manual virus transmission. Masks should be clean and exchanged at least daily in order to remain effective.

Respiratory etiquette: Covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or a sleeve when coughing or sneezing is not only polite, it stops the transmission of viruses.

Consider stocking up on some non-perishable foods: Grocery stores may run low on some foods if transportation is limited. Don't panic though. The Commissary keeps a large supply of food items that will last until we are resupplied.

Self-isolation: If you become ill, "toughing it out" at work is a very bad idea. You may make others sick at work and decrease productivity at the workplace by spreading the virus to others. Do your workplace a favor: stay at home if you get sick. Make arrangements with your supervisor to "tele-commute" or work from home, if that's possible. As always, make sure that you keep your supervisor updated on your status.

Large public gatherings, such as concerts, formations, sporting events, and theaters may be suspended in the event of a pandemic to reduce the spread of the virus.

Quarantine: In extreme cases, quarantine may be imposed to help stop the spread of disease by restricting movement of non-infected people. Staying informed will be very important during a pandemic.

For more information regarding avian or pandemic influenza, call at 535-3464.

(Courtesy of the 65th Medical Group Public Health office)



Schools merge to make K-12

By Staff Sgt. Christin Michaud
65th ABW Public Affairs

The main entrance to the high school here has closed and students now must enter through the side entrance.

This closure is the first phase in a project to combine the schools and create a unit school for all K-12 students.

Beginning in school year 2006/2007 the Lajes Elementary and High School buildings will be adjoined, creating one building.

"We will have one office and one main entrance," explained Janet Ross, school liaison officer.

"Making Lajes a unit school allows us to combine manpower and physical resources so that all students have increased access to learning opportunities," she explained.

Currently, the elementary school has 240 students enrolled and the Middle/High School enrollment is 150.

"With our smaller student numbers,

it makes sense from a managerial and financial perspective to operate one school," Mrs. Ross said.

There will be administrative and managerial changes when the school re-opens in August, but should be transparent for the student body as they will not

notice a big difference. There will continue to be great learning going on with increased opportunities with the combined faculty and facilities.

Freshman Kelsey Knight doesn't care much about the fact that she will see her younger brother in school with her, but suggests instead that they do away with two

mascots (Dolphins for the Elementary School and Falcons for the High School) and create one mascot — the Touro.

Lajes Elementary/High School will be the official name of the unit school, but as a community, "we will refer to ourselves as the Lajes American School," Mrs. Ross said.

"We will have one staff and one continuing goal — to give all of the children in Lajes a high quality educational program that is second to none."

"There will continue to be great learning ... with the combined faculty and facilities."

- Janet Ross



Bzzzzzz

Berto Lima (right) a barber at the Army Air Force Exchange Barber Shop here, clips away at customer Tech. Sgt. Jason Bairos' hair. The barber shop recently relocated to Bldg. T-400. They are open Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday from noon to 8 p.m. (Photo by Guido Melo)

Smart OPS 21 charges into USAFE

1st. Lt. S.K. Nielsen
USAFE Public Affairs

Is there a better way to do something or get something done in the Air Force? Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st century is an initiative to improve processes that contribute to our ability to employ air, space and cyberspace power in support of our combatant commanders and eliminate activities, actions and policies that do not support our core competencies.

"Everything we do is process work. We need to eliminate as much non-value added work within these processes as possible, at both the functional level and across the entire enterprise. Successfully implementing and sustaining AFSO 21 will be the keys to improving service, reducing costs and enriching the lives of our Airmen," said Col. Theodore Eaton, USAFE deputy director of logistics.

Across USAFE, organizations are looking at the way they perform operations and looking for ways to improve them. Everything from consolidated telephone operations, help desk operations, and even improving C-130 engine propeller repair cycle time are just some of the changes already showing improvements in USAFE.

"Institutionalizing process improvement as part of our operating style will allow the Air Force to meet the enormous challenges we face over the next decade and ultimately help modernize and sustain the world's best air and space force," said Colonel Eaton.

AFSO 21 will create a fundamental cultural change where all Airmen understand their individual role in improving our daily processes and contribute to the Air Force mission, and where all senior leaders and commanders understand their role in removing barriers for their Airmen that inhibit improved mission effectiveness and efficiencies.

"We want Airmen to be fully aware of the importance of their work and how it contributes to the mission; Airmen must look to improve what they do every day. We want Airmen to see their role in a fundamentally different way: by focusing on increasing value and eliminating waste," said Steve Jewett, USAFE AFSO 21 cell leader.

Lajes instrumental location for commercial airliner emergencies

By 1st Lt. Michael Hyland
65th ABW Public Affairs

If you've flown from the United States to mainland Europe, you probably know about the long, monotonous journey across "the pond." The majority of the time, the transcontinental flight includes a few bumps from turbulence, a little headwind and some tasty airline food. Passengers in a British Airways flight March 12 and an Italian commercial flight March 13 received a little more than dinner and beverage service though.

Emergency services from the 65th Air Base Wing responded to British Airways Flight 2157 after it made an emergency landing at Lajes Field March 12 and they responded to a Livingston Airbus 330, which diverted into Lajes March 13. Both flights diverted for medical emergencies.

Air Base 4 medical personnel transported ill passengers from both flights to the hospital in Angra Do Herismo.

According to Master Sgt. Ricky Herring, assistant Air Traffic Control Complex chief controller for the 65th Operational Support Squadron, Lajes Field plays a key role for in-flight emergencies when an aircraft transits the Atlantic Ocean.

"When aircraft are in transatlantic flight between the United States and Europe, about half the flight time the aircraft is closer to the Azores than either mainland," he said. "In emergency situations, pilots will divert to the closest airport with adequate support facilities. All of these air routes are north of the Azores, which places Terceira in a prime location for quicker land times."

In 2005, 41 aircraft diverted to Lajes Field for in-flight emergencies. First responders attended to 13 medical and 28 mechanical emergencies. Of the 41 aircraft, 26 were military and 15 civilian.

One of the most noted in-flight emergencies here was in 2001 when an Airbus A330 carrying more than 300 passengers and crewmembers had to make an emergency landing at Lajes. The aircraft had no fuel or engine power and was gliding at an altitude of



A British Airways Boeing 777-236 (G-VIIT) made an emergency landing here March 12 at approximately 1:30 p.m. for an in-flight medical emergency. Team Lajes as well as Air Base No. 4 personnel responded to transport the individual to the hospital. The plane refueled and departed at 3:25 p.m. (Photo by James O'Rear)

35,000 feet over the ocean. The entire landing gear burst into flames when the wheels hit the ground on the airfield here.

When an aircraft diverts to Lajes, air traffic controllers obtain the majority of the emergency information before the aircraft touches down.

"We obtain all the vital information from the pilot directly and notify other support agencies via the primary crash alarm system and other means as necessary," Sergeant Herring said. "Air traffic controllers give priority to emergency aircraft; they do not get delayed by other aircraft. Once we are in control of an emergency, we get them to the airport in the most expeditious manner possible."

Some medical emergencies can be life-threatening.

Once the aircraft parks on the runway, the first responder team goes to work.

"After landing, fire/rescue personnel, medical personnel, airfield management and aircraft maintenance, both U.S. and Portuguese, meet the aircraft and assist with the emergency. The fire

department chief becomes the on-scene commander, and is responsible for the aircraft and status of emergency."

In emergency situations for civilian flights, Air Base 4 medical personnel treat victims. According to Headquarters, Azores Air Command, AB4 personnel assess the patient on site and evaluate whether to permit the patient to proceed with the flight or transport the patient to the hospital in Angra. The 65th Medical Group is always standing by to assist AB4 with ambulance transportation if needed.

When the emergency involves U.S. military, the 65th Medical Group takes the lead in patient treatment.

No matter what the emergency situation entails, the Portuguese and U.S. Air Forces work closely as a team to ensure expedient assistance and medical care is provided to both military and civilians diverting to Lajes.

Next time you're flying from New York to London and staring out your window into the seemingly endless Atlantic Ocean, know that the members of Lajes Field will be ready if you need them.

Five spotlight talent during Lajes Idol

By Staff Sgt. Christin Michaud
65th ABW Public Affairs

The Top of the Rock Club was filled with music Saturday during Lajes Idol "Quatro," which doubled as a USAFE Idol II 2006 competition.

Five Team Lajes members competed during Lajes Idol for a chance to move on to the USAFE level competition at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Contestants Staff Sgt. Chad Goff, Staff Sgt. Craig Brown, Airman Nicholas Stowers, Capt. Jeremy Gingrich and Capt. Hollie Losee competed in the competition that mirrors the hit show

American Idol.

They performed in front of more than 300 members of the Lajes community, singing songs ranging from ballads to hit country songs.

Captain Losee was the first place winner and will proceed to the USAFE-level and participate in three days of performing arts workshops. The top three winners were awarded prize money. Captain Losee received \$350. Second place earned Staff Sgt. Chad Goff \$100 prize, and third-place winner Staff Sgt. Craig Brown walked away with \$50.

"Singing with a live band is incredibly different from your normal karaoke,"

said Captain Losee, who started singing in church as a child.

Each contestant submitted two songs for the USAFE band Direct Hit to learn.

Her performance song was not selected until the day before, Captain Losee said, and was the only rehearsal she and other contestants had with the band.

"All of the other contestants are absolutely great singers and performed excellently," she said. "It was a tough competition."

Judges for the event were Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Lively, a USAFE band vocalist, Tech. Sgt. Graciela Martinez, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron and dance instructor and Alan landers, the Lajes High School Music Teacher.

"The show was huge and maxed out the TORC Ballroom," said project coordinator Capt. Ted West. "Overflow seating in the Enlisted Lounge allowed people to not only see the action on TV but hear it too."

The command-level competition is scheduled for 7 p.m. April 22 in the Ramstein Officer's Club.



Above: (L to R) Airman Nicholas Stowers, Staff Sgt. Craig Brown, Capt. Hollie Losee, Staff Sgt. Chad Goff and Capt. Jeremy Gingrich competed in Lajes Idol Quatro. Left and below: USAFE Band Direct Hit performed and provided music for the contestants. (Photos by Guido Melo)





Azores archipelago

Ed highlights each of nine islands continuing with Terceira

By Ed Lima
Community Relations Advisor

This is the third of a series of articles on all of the nine islands which form the Azorean archipelago.

Terceira, Island of Jesus Christ

The island of Terceira, or the Island of Jesus Christ, as it was known to the Portuguese navigators during the discoveries era was third to be discovered, hence its name which means "third."

With an elliptical shape, Terceira has an area of approximately 148 square miles and is the third largest Azorean island with a population that rounds about 57,000 people.

History

The island, namely the port of Angra do Heroísmo, played an important role in the 15th and 16th centuries as a port of call for sailing ships carrying the wealth of the Americas, Africa, and India. In fact, Vasco da Gama's brother, Paulo, was buried in Angra during their return from Vasco da Gama's first voyage to India.

With the fall of the Portuguese throne to Phillip II of Spain in 1580, the island became a center of resistance against Spanish rule. In fact, the first attempt by Spanish troops to invade the island resulted in their complete defeat. Led by a brave woman named Brianda Pereira and an Augustinian monk named Friar Pedro, a group of Terceira natives inflicted an absolute defeat on the invaders by throwing a herd of cattle against them in the famous battle of Salga Bay in 1581.

With the restoration of Portugal's independence in 1640, the Spanish were expelled and life returned to normal.

The struggles between two

political movements in the early 19th century, the Absolutists and the Liberals, led Terceira to once again play an important role in Portugal's history. Terceira had supported the Liberal cause since 1820. After several struggles, the Absolutists were dominated and the island became the liberals' main base. On Aug. 11, 1829, the town of Praia heroically resisted an attack and attempted landing by an Absolutist fleet of 21 ships, defeating them. The event resulted in the town being granted the title of Vitoria (victory) in 1837.

The end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries were marked by a significant reduction of Terceira's role in the life of the Azores. However, the existence of an important air base, airport and the construction of a commercial seaport in Praia da Vitoria has since broadened the island's development perspectives.

The island's main towns are Angra do Heroísmo and Praia da Vitoria with approximately 14,000 and 7,000 inhabitants respectively.

Angra

Angra, located at the base of Mount Brazil, features some old churches, a museum and monuments, the most notable of which is the fortress of São João Batista. This fortress is about 3.7 miles long and was built during the Spanish occupation. It was designed as both a bastion against pirates and a means for the Spanish to defend themselves from the island's population, who had never accepted the Spanish dominion.

The most important sites the city has to offer are the Palace of the Captain's Generals, the main cathedral, town hall, the garden, the museum, Mount Brazil and the fortress that surrounds it.

The city is currently the headquarters for the Regional

Government Office of Education and Social Affairs, the Office of the Minister of the Republic for the Azores, one of the University of the Azores's departments and the Episcopal Church. Reconstruction of the city following a 1980 earthquake was designed to preserve the style of the damaged buildings and monuments. This led the United Nations' organization "UNESCO," to classify the city as a World Heritage Site in 1983.

Praia da Vitoria

Praia da Vitoria, located about three miles from the base, was the seat of the island's government in the early settlement period (1456-1474) and became a town in 1640. It too was partially destroyed by an earthquake in 1841. Its economic importance and growth during the past few decades justified it being raised to city status on June 20, 1981. Praia also features the only sandy strip on the island. Other sites of interest in Praia include the Matriz Church, Town Hall, the Praia overlook (where people can enjoy a breathtaking view of the city) and the Fort of Santa Catarina on the other side of the bay, next to the commercial port.

Terceira has several other towns whose beauty and tourist attractions make them worth a closer look. They include Biscoitos (where the wine museum is located), Porto Martins, Porto Judeu, Serreta, São Sebastião and São Mateus. Visitors will also enjoy the luxuriant island-wide landscape as well as two caves (Furna d'Água and Algar do Carvão, featuring stalagmites and stalactites) and the sulfur pits at the center of the island.

For those who enjoy spending the weekend outdoors, or just an afternoon, I suggest you try the campgrounds next to Salga Bay and in the town of Biscoitos. For an afternoon out, try the Duck

Lake in the middle of the island, Serreta Natural Park or Salgueiros near Porto Martins, all great sites for picnics.

Culture

As for cultural events, Terceira probably has more summer festivals than any of the other Azorean islands. Following Easter Sunday, the island's streets come to life with people celebrating the Holy Ghost festivals; an old religious tradition brought the Azores around 1432 by the first settlers. The first of May brings one of the most awaited and popular events on the island; the street bullfighting. This tradition goes back to the 16th century, and came to the island via Portuguese noblemen although, likely influenced by the Spanish here at the time, as well.

Then in June is time for the island's largest festival called "Sanjoaninas." This nine-day festival sponsored by the City of Angra takes place during the last two weeks of the month and features parades, musical concerts, displays, sports activities, street and arena bullfights as well as other cultural events. The City of Praia also sponsors a similar event every year during the first week of August.

Cuisine

Terceira also features a very rich food tradition. Alcatra, boiled or grilled fish, Holy Ghost soup and vegetable soup, sweet bread and the beef stew are just some of the island's delights people can find in the local restaurants.

Lastly, I'd like to encourage all members of the Lajes Field community to get out of the base and experience the island's landscape and culture. Although the island is very small, it still has a lot to offer in terms of history, scenery, culture and gastronomy.

Graciosa is next week.



Above: Parents and Cub Scouts watch as two cars race to the finish during Saturday's Pinewood Derby at the chapel. Members of Cub Scout Pack 1605 built the race cars from a block of pinewood for the annual competition. Top Right: Lucas (left) and Ken Cruz watch the race after releasing the cars from the starting point. Right: Capt. Scott Denny, Webelo leader, and Master Sgt. Andrew Henne, Cub Master, stand over the selection of cars. The cars were on display for the other Cubs to vote on in the best looking car category. Trophies were awarded for best looking car and fastest car. (Photos by Guido Melo)

Pinewood Derby: Cub Scouts build, race cars

By Staff Sgt. Christin Michaud
65th ABW Public Affairs

Some young boys tinker with race cars. Many have even created model cars. But youth here built race cars with parts that can't be found at the base exchange. They used pinewood.

Something that may seem unusual to some people is actually an annual event for Cub Scouts here and all over the world.

Twenty one of the Lajes Field Cub Scouts transformed blocks of pinewood to speed racers for Saturday's Annual Pinewood Derby tournament held at the chapel.

"This is one of the biggest events the Cub Scouts do," said Kimberly Henne, Pack 1605 committee chair.

The scouts were given a block of pinewood, four nails and four wheels to create a car. Along with their parents help, they converted the block of wood into unique racers through carving, sanding and painting.

Seven-year old David Smith's father is

deployed, but that didn't stop David from participating in this year's Pinewood Derby.

His mother took on the challenge. "We all carved it," said his mother Tech. Sgt. Christina Arbelli-Smith, who wasn't ready to brave the big power tools and used a Dremel to chip away at the wood to help create his racer.

"I won three times," David said, explaining how he had to race each Scout.

"It's very emotional for them, and they are having fun," said his mother.

Christian Gregorek, 9, had fun at the Pinewood Derby as well. After his race, he shouted, "Yeah, I beat the pencil," celebrating his victory over another car.

Before the racing began, Scouts had to register, get their photo for their souvenir driver's license and have their car weighed to make sure it was within the guidelines, weighing 5 ounces or less.

Nine-year old Nicholas Denny didn't win with his car, but the best part he said, was "you get to have fun." This is his third time competing in the Pinewood

Derby.

"Overall it was a great event and the Scouts had a fantastic time," said Tech. Sgt. Chris Phillips, Pack 1605 Pinewood Derby chair.

"Our primary goal of the event was for the kids to have fun, do a project with their parents and to learn good sportsmanship," he said. "I know they all didn't receive a trophy, but they all truly won."

Cole Grimes took first place for the fastest car, and Willie Winston won best looking car for his tank.

"It was awesome to see the creativity the kids had in designing their cars," said Sergeant Phillips. "We had a car with dinosaurs in it, the tank, the bat mobile and a very patriotic red, white and blue racer, just to name a few."

Special thanks go to Kerri Herring and Mary Phillips for preparing food for the event and assisting with the registration and to the den leaders and the pack committee who volunteer their time on a weekly basis the entire year. "Without them we could not have a pack," said Sergeant Phillips.

Sports competitions allow Team Lajes to put best foot forward

By Staff Sgt. Marcus McDonald
65th ABW Public Affairs

Grand slam or slam dunk.

Regardless of the type of competition, command-level sports allow members of Team Lajes to put their best foot forward when representing the base, the United States Air Forces in Europe, or the Air Force.

"These competitions give people an opportunity to get away from their day-to-day routine while serving as a representative and promoting the Air Force's Fit to Fight program at the same time," said 1st Lt. Adam Vaccarezza, fitness center director.

While working at the headquarters for Air Education and Training Command, the lieutenant hosted several of the events and immediately realized their impact.

"I got to see how sporting events could bring people together, in a spirit of teamwork and camaraderie, to accomplish a common goal," he said.

Lieutenant Vaccarezza discussed the process for participating in team-level sports competitions.

"For team sports, USAFE sends a request asking for a Lajes team to play at a particular event," he said. "We'll then go out to our varsity coaches to see if they are interested in sending a varsity team."

"If the varsity teams want to or are interested in playing, I'll forward them the information about the tournament

and what USAFE will provide," the lieutenant explained. "The team will either commit or say they can't do it. If they can't do it, we'll advertise the competition to the base to see if people are interested in forming a team."

A variety of individualized sports competitions are also available throughout the year.

"To participate, people just fill out an Air Force Form 303 and turn it into the fitness center," Lieutenant Vaccarezza said. "This form basically gives them a chance to list their experience in that type of sporting event."

For Air Force-level events, the Air Force Services Agency sends a request to the major commands asking for command-level participants.

"For example, they say that softball tryouts will be held at a certain base," the lieutenant explained. "USAFE will then ask us if we have anyone at Lajes interested in trying out for the Air Force softball team."

People interested fill out the Air Force Form 303 and turn it into the fitness center staff.

"We'll review the form to ensure the person is initially qualified to be a representative in that particular sporting event, but USAFE makes the final decision," Lieutenant Vaccarezza said. "USAFE will then take all the applicants, decide who they think is worthy, and turn the applications over to Air Force Sports."

Air Force Sports then gets with the

Air Force team coach or program to discuss who they are going to invite to try out.

"Those selected will attend the try out, which is usually about a week long," the lieutenant said. "Players will then compete for a spot on that team. Once they've made the Air Force team, their team will compete at the DoD level."

A Lajes family member who took part in last year's USAFE women's softball tournament discussed her experience.

"It was a privilege to represent Lajes last year," said Marie Silver, wife of Tech. Sgt. Gary Silver, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron. "Even though we didn't fare as well as we would have liked, we still had a great time and I am looking forward to competing in other tournaments as a member of the Lajes varsity team this year."

In addition to the USAFE tournament, the women's varsity softball team also plans to represent Lajes and the Air Force at the National Softball Association's Military World Series in Washington D.C. this July. Those interested in getting a head start on the women's varsity softball season can e-mail Eric Crandell at ecrandell@gmail.com or Gary Silver at gary.silver@lajes.af.mil.

For more information on individual or team sports competitions, call 535-2426 or see the Chace Fitness Center staff.

Sports Shorts

April Events

- April 5 - Easter 5K Fun Run
- April 11 - Softball coaches meeting
- April 14 - Flag football tournament
- April 26 - Golf coaches meeting
- April 28 - Soccer coaches meeting

HAWC notes

March is National Nutrition Month. The Health and Wellness Center has the following activities scheduled:

"Cooking Healthy in the Dorms" Food Demonstration: 2:30 to 4 p.m. Monday at the family support center kitchen. Call 535-3889 to sign up or e-mail lisa.tauai@lajes.af.mil.

Youth baseball sign ups

Lajes Youth Sports baseball sign ups begin Monday at the Lajes Youth Center, Bldg. T-240. Youth ages 5 to 17 are eligible. The season starts April 29 and ends June 10. Cost is \$25 for members and \$35 for nonmembers. The deadline to register is April 21, and the skills assessment will be held April 22. For more information, call 535-1197.

Ultrabodies VII

The annual Ultrabodies competition is scheduled for June 24 at RAF Mildenhall in England.

For more information, call the Mildenhall Fitness and Sports Center at DSN 312-238-3735 or 2349.



PLANNER



Hours of operation
Ocean Front BX (Bldg. T-207) Phone: 535-3444

Monday-Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Flight View BX (Bldg. T-627) Phone: 535-5236

Monday-Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Main Street Shoppette (Bldg. T-323) Phone: 535-3280

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Military Clothing

Sales Store (Bldg. T-627) Phone: 535-3816

Sunday-Monday closed;
Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Car Care Center (Bldg. T-320) Phone: 535-5125

Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Monday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Furniture Store (Bldg. T-800)

Wednesday-Friday noon to 5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Reel Time Theater (Bldg. T-300) Phone: 535-4100

Showings Wednesday-Sunday

Beauty Shop (Bldg. T-400) (Walk-In Available) Phone: 535-4124

Sunday-Monday closed;

Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Barber Shop (Bldg. T-400) Phone: 535-3396

Sunday and Monday closed; Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

New Car Sales (Bldg. T-202) Phone: 535-3173

Monday-Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday-Friday noon to 8 p.m.

Air Terminal Gift Shop (Bldg. T-612)

Phone: 535-3227
AAFES Administrative Offices (Bldg. T-800)

Phone: 535-3209
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Ilha Rent-a-Car (Bldg. T-207) Phone: 535-1278

Sunday closed; Monday-

Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Frank's Franks (Bldg. T-207) Phone: 535-1123

Monday-Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Vescovi Coffee Shop (Bldg. T-207) Phone: 535-1123

Monday-Sunday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Burger King (Bldg. T-169) Phone: 535-3849

Monday-Thursday 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.; and Sunday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

AAFES Ocean View BX and Flight View BX are open on Portuguese Holidays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., except the shoppette, which is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. All facilities are open normal hours on U.S. holidays.

Tradewinds Dining Facility Menu

Today

Lunch: Seafood Newburg, Beef and Corn Pie and Roast Turkey*

Dinner: Simmered Corn Beef,* Pineapple Chicken and Yankee Pot Roast

Saturday

Brunch: Swedish Meatballs, Creole Fish*
Dinner: Baked Fish,* Hungarian Goulash and BBQ Chicken

Sunday

Brunch: Oven Fried Fish,* Cantonese Spareribs and *Grilled Mustard Chicken Breast**
Dinner: Stir Fry Beef and Broccoli,* Turkey Nuggets and Steak

Monday

Lunch: Pot Roast, Baked Stuffed Fish* and Roast Loin of Pork*
Dinner: Chili Mac,* Beef Cannelloni and Southern Fried Chicken

Tuesday

Lunch: Teriyaki Chicken,* Veal Parmesan and Tuna and Noodle casserole
Dinner: Country Captain Chicken,* Meatloaf and Turkey A La King

Wednesday

Lunch: BBQ Ham Steak,* Turkey and Noodles and Beef Ball Stroganoff
Dinner: Lemon- Herb Chicken,* BBQ Spareribs and Stuffed Pork Chops

Thursday

Lunch: Southern Fried Catfish, Fried Chicken and BBQ Spareribs
Airman's Appreciation Dinner: Grilled Steak, BBQ Spareribs and Grilled Chicken

*Denotes Healthy Heart item
Menu subject to change

At the Movies

Today: 7p.m. Underworld: Revolution – starring Kate Beckinsale and Scott Speedman

A war emerges between the aristocratic Death Dealers and the barbaric Lycans (werewolves), stemming from an ancient feud between the two tribes. Selene, the beautiful vampire heroine, and Michael, the lycan hybrid, try to unlock the secrets of their bloodlines. Their forbidden love takes them into the battle to end all wars as the immortals must finally face their retribution. Rated R (violence, gore, sexuality, nudity, language) 105 min

Saturday: 7 p.m. Big Momma's House 2 – starring Martin Lawrence and Nia Long

The continuing adventures of master-of-disguise FBI special agent Malcolm Turner. This time he must go undercover as Big Momma to nail his ex-partner's murderer. While undercover in the house of the suspected criminal, Malcolm grows attached to the suspect's three children. Rated PG13 (sexual humor, drug reference) 97 min



Sunday: 2 p.m. - Big Momma's House 2, 7 p.m. - Underworld: Revolution
Wednesday: 7 p.m. - Big Momma's House 2
Thursday: 7 p.m. - Underworld: Revolution
Next week: Annapolis and Nanny McFhee

Movies subject to change. For updated listings, call 535-3302. For more information on ratings, visit www.aafes.com.





EVENTS

Submission deadline is Thursday one week prior to publication. E-mail announcements in normal text with event, location, date, time, point of contact's full name and phone number/e-mail address to news@lajes.af.mil.

Miscellaneous

Clowns — A musical production: The Lajes Elementary School will perform the musical "Clowns" at 6:30 p.m. March 31 at the Community Center. The students will be sing, dance and perform during the musical. For more information, call 535-6216.

Murder Mystery Dinner: The Enlisted Spouses Club is sponsoring a Mystery Dinner Theater 7 p.m. April 22 in the Top of the Rock Club ballroom. Guests will be transported back in time to 1985 for the wedding of Brandy, a rich Valley girl and Cooter, the poor trailer park boy. The event will include dinner, audience interaction, and, maybe a murder or two.

Guests should wear 80s attire. Not sure what to wear? ESC will have an outlet and makeover booth at the TORC, beginning at 6 p.m. There will be T-shirts, accessories and more available for purchase. Tickets are \$25 and include dinner. For tickets, call Kim Pate at 295-549-250

Education

Central Texas College: Central Texas College is offering onsite Criminal Justice classes *Court Systems and Practices* and *Crime in America* in Term 4. Registration ends today. Classes begin Monday and run through May 19. For more information, call 535-6722.

Oklahoma University classes: The Masters of Human Relations degree program with University of Oklahoma is a 36-credit hour, non-thesis degree that can be completed within 16-24 months.

The next course being offered for the Summer is HR 5022-231, "Research in Human Relations," a Core course towards the Master of Human Relations degree. The course dates are May 16-21. The last day to add/drop will be April 17.

OU is currently accepting enrollment for online courses. Enrollment ends April 2. All online courses are held from May 1 through Aug. 11.

For more information call

535-3171 or stop by Bldg. T-146, room 214.

Lunch and Learn: OU will be sponsoring a Lunch and Learn noon to 1 p.m. April 6. Visiting professor, Dr. Abraham Scherman will be discussing, "Issues and Concerns with Stepfamilies."

Chapel

Stations of the Cross followed by a "meager meal: 6 p.m. through April 7 at the chapel; **New Creation Cafe:** 7 p.m. today at Eddie's Place; **Children and Youth Movie Night:** 7 p.m. today at the chapel; **Little Flowers Girls' Club:** 3 p.m. Monday; For more information, call 535-4211.

Jobs/Volunteer

Certified Teachers: DoDDs is looking for certified teachers. Interested individuals can stop by the Elementary School Office or call 535-3491.

School jobs: All GS positions at the schools here are continuous and open. Don't wait for an opening to apply – if you're interested in a position, apply now. The application procedure is a long one, so start early. For information, call Paula Carnley at 535-4151 or at 535-3491.

Girl Scout Committee Chair: An excellent volunteer opportunity will open May 1. The opening is for a Terceira Island Girl Scouts Overseas Committee Chair position. Applicants need strong management, organizational and leadership skills. Requires application, interview and training (provided in Germany May 5-7). Some Girl Scout experience helpful, but not mandatory. OCC oversees all Girl Scout activity on Terceira including Overseas Committee Management Team, leaders and troops. Must have one year retainability and cannot be a troop leader while holding the position. Interested applicants should contact Toni Leonard at 295-549-514 or Lin Earp at 295-549-711.

Automotive instructors: Central Texas College is seeking applications for Automotive Instructors who have

an Associates degree or higher and a minimum of 5 years' work experience in the maintenance field or a Bachelor's degree and a minimum of 3 years work experience in the maintenance field. For more information, contact the CTC office at Lajes at 535-6722.

First Aid volunteers: The American Red Cross is looking for volunteers to teach First Aid to children at Lajes Elementary School. Anyone interested can contact the American Red Cross office at 295-573-516.

Services vacancies: The 65th Services Squadron vacancy listing is available at the Human Resources Office in building T-112 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. For details, call 295-575-200 or 535-5200.

Project CHEER

SUM Tour: The family support center will host a Single Unaccompanied Member tour 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 25. The tour is to the Sao Joao Baptista Fort and Biscoitos wine museum. To sign up, call 535-4138.

Project CHEER Luau: A pot luck Luau is scheduled for 7 p.m. Saturday in the community center. Bring food items in an aluminum container to minimize cleanup efforts, or for those who don't cook, fruit is also needed. Don't forget island wear for the event which will include a hula performance.

Monte Carlo night: There will be a Texas Hold 'Em Tournament 6 p.m. March 31 at the Top of the Rock Club. The cost is \$25 and includes dinner and entry fee.

Early registration will be held at the TORC from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 and 5 to 6 p.m. Thursday at the TORC. Dinner and late registration will begin at 6 p.m. and the tournament will begin at 7:30 p.m. Prizes will go to the first 10 winners. Ten percent of the proceeds will be donated to the Air Force Assistance Fund.

For details, call Tech. Sgt. Dough Threatt at 535-5184 or Staff Sgt. Andy McKendree at 535-5144.

Classifieds

E-mail ads to news@lajes.af.mil. Ads are due by 5 p.m. Friday. Please remember to notify the Crossroads when items have been sold.

Wanted: Looking to buy an automatic car. Please call 295-516-998

For Sale: Two dehumidifiers, 110 volts. \$75 each or \$125 for both. Call Steve at 535-3669 or email steven.mountz@lajes.af.mil

Wanted: Drummer for established Rock Band. No Kit Necessary! Call Steve at 295-549-733

Digital Camera: Sony P-31 w/ 128MB. \$75 obo; Projector: BenQ PB6200. Excellent condition! \$700 obo; 17" & 19" monitors: not quite perfect. \$15 ea. obo; TI-89 Graphing Calc: great chapel \$75; 19" TV: \$30 obo E-mail gregory.cooper@lajes.af.mil, or call 295-549-818, 967-065-230

Free 18 month old dog looking for a new home. Max is a Black Lab/Blue Heeler mix. House trained, cute and lovable. Free kennel, food dish, leash & toys. PCSing in June, cannot bring dog. Call 295-549-272

For Sale: Large 44" Satellite Dish. See all your AFN channels. Almost new, used for only 2 months, \$100. Call 295-549-272

For Sale: Eventlo Stroller/Car Seat Combo for 5-22 lbs. \$50; Bassinet \$20; Entertainment Center fits 32" TV \$75; King Size Bed/Metal Frame \$75; Booster Seat for 30-80 lbs. \$20; Dirt Devil Vacuum \$10; Call James or Danielle at 295-549-541 or 962-074-116. PCS'ing soon. Prices negotiable.

For Sale: 3 Dehumidifiers (110V) \$75 each. Like new, used only twice, and works like a champ. Call Elisa between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. at 964-101-752 or e-mail at erzitter@myrealbox.com

For sale: Power Wheels 4 wheeler, used only a few times, comes with charger. \$90 or best offer. Call 295-549-682

Commuter: Looking for carpool from Biscuitos or Quatro Ribeiras to base (7:30 a.m.) and base to Biscuitos (5 p.m.) Monday-Friday. We can work out times and days if interested. Call Jeff at 967847479

For Sale: Entertainment Center, almost brand new and in box, \$70; Wooden bookshelf, \$30. Call 295-549-794

Babysitting on weekend nights: will babysit 3 years of age or higher; I am 14 and have taken the babysitter course for CPR/first aid; I have experience with children: Call Brandon at 295-549-579

Little Tykes outdoor soccer net—\$5 Girls 16" bike with training wheels—\$5 Call Andy or Kimberly at 295-549-741

For Sale: 2000 KTM Duke II. 3969.5 miles, 640cc's. \$4,000 or best offer. For details, e-mail Corsicav83@hotmail.com

For sale: Snuggli infant black/grey front and back carrier for full term infants from 7 to 26 lbs. used only a few times - instruction booklet included \$15; Diaper Genie - has an almost new pack of liners in it \$7 (BX sells refills); Ameda Purely Yours electric double breast pump \$35. Eventlo Babygo Playpen that you can hook up music to. Includes a built in bassinet, toy bar and diaper changing attachment. Navy blue. \$45. Eventlo height adjustable high chair. Has removable tray for dishwasher. \$30. Call 295-516-031 after 6 p.m. or weekends

Nanny available: fun loving, creative and honest. First language English, second Portuguese, relocating to Terceira from Canada looking to start a full time position ASAP - concentrating on early childhood education, fine motor skills, and developmental tasks - 5 years experience, fabulous references. E-mail ashleysousa@mail.com or call 416-354-2630 (Canada)